

HIGH SIERRA HIKERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 8920 So. LAKE TAHOE CA 96158

September 6, 2006

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

RECEIVED
TWSR-342-815
SEP 07 2006
p. 1020
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

SUBJECT: SCOPING COMMENTS ON TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

Dear Superintendent,

The High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) is a nonprofit public-benefit organization that seeks to inform and educate its members, public agencies, and the general public about issues affecting hikers and the High Sierra. Many of the HSHA's members visit the Tuolumne Meadows and Tuolumne River areas for hiking, camping, backpacking, horse packing, and other recreational pursuits. Following are our scoping comments on the Tuolumne River Plan and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan. Please place a copy of this letter in the project record for both plans.

General Comments

The HSHA is very concerned about the ongoing (and increasing) adverse impacts in these areas due to commercial stock animal usage and the High Sierra Camps. These planning processes should be used to end—once and for all—the impairment of park, wilderness, and wild & scenic river resources and values resulting from these high-impact activities. Following are our specific comments:

High Sierra Camps (HSCs)

The HSHA is especially concerned with the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp (HSC), and the non-wilderness HSC at Tuolumne Meadows in conjunction with the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. These aged and ugly facilities have a significant negative impact on the Tuolumne River corridor and on the environment of Tuolumne Meadows. For example, all the by-products of human occupancy are produced at the Glen Aulin camp: sewage (human body wastes), "gray water"

<i>P</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>008</i>				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

from showers, grease and detergent from kitchens. But there are no wastewater or sewage treatment plants. Wastewater and sewage from these developments pollutes the meadows, soils, and waters of Yosemite National Park.

Congress specifically recognized this threat to Yosemite when it passed the California Wilderness Act of 1984. That Act, signed by President Reagan, bestowed formal wilderness designation upon much of the Yosemite backcountry. The Congress allowed the HSCs to temporarily remain, but stated:

“...If and when it occurs that the continued operation of these facilities...results in an increased adverse impact on the adjacent wilderness environment (including increased adverse impact on the natural environment within the enclaves themselves), the operation of these facilities shall be promptly terminated, the facilities removed, the sites naturalized, and in the procedure set forth by section 9 of the bill, the areas promptly designated as wilderness.”

The HSCs are an anachronism—an out-of-date holdover from the bad old days of the 1920s through the early 1960s, when more development and more commercialism were considered desirable and beneficial. One way to look at the HSCs today is this: If the NPS were to propose establishing an HSC in the Yosemite backcountry at the present time, the project would never get off the ground. It would violate the Wilderness Act, it would violate the California Wilderness Act, and it wouldn't have a ghost of a chance of surviving an honest NEPA process. That being so, why should not the existing HSCs be abolished? Fifty years ago, no one talked about environmentalism. Now we have a federal agency, the EPA, and all and sundry declare themselves to be in favor of environmental protection. It is thus time for the National Park Service to catch up with the times (and pay attention to its Organic Act) by choosing preservation of park resources, scenery, wilderness character, and wild river values over ongoing exploitation and impairment.

The Vogelsang HSC does not itself lie within the Tuolumne River watershed or Tuolumne Meadows area, but its very existence nearby has a substantial adverse impact on both river and meadows. The trail from Tuolumne Meadows to Vogelsang HSC, like all trails traversed by the HSC supply trains, is battered and polluted, featuring flies and stench and dust. One is not out of sight of manure for the entire seven miles. Significantly, a recent study by scientists from the University of California (U.C. Davis Medical School) has documented that the Tuolumne River is being polluted in this area, and concluded that: *“pack animals are most likely the source of coliform [bacteria] pollution”* (Derlet and Carlson 2006, copy enclosed).

The same is true of the trail to Glen Aulin, a camp that can support a maximum of 32 people. For the sake of those 32, dozens of people every day—and during the course of an entire season, thousands—are inconvenienced and offended by the disgusting condition of the trail and the pollution of surrounding park lands.

The House Committee Report prepared for the 1984 California Wilderness Act also stated:

"...Because of the importance of continuing monitoring and assessment of this situation, immediately upon enactment of this bill into law, the Secretary of the Interior should document current baseline operational and environmental impact conditions of all of these facilities [HSC camps], and he should also, within one year of the date of enactment, report in writing to the relevant committee of the House and Senate, his findings and recommendations as to this matter. Annual assessments of this situation should thereafter be made by the Secretary to assure continued monitoring of conditions." (House Committee Report No. 98-40)

Has the Park Service at Yosemite prepared the baseline reports and conducted the annual monitoring reports as requested by Congress? If such reports do exist, they should be made public at once, and the findings fully evaluated in these planning processes.

The HSCs at Glen Aulin and Vogelsang are classified as "potential wilderness additions," which, by law, must be treated and managed essentially the same as wilderness. (See the California Wilderness Act of 1984, Section 9.) However, despite the ongoing and increased impacts of the HSCs, and the clear direction from Congress, we are aware that the NPS has made ongoing efforts to hide the impacts of these facilities from Congress and the public, and has illegally continued to use nonconforming methods (i.e., helicopters) to maintain the HSCs and to construct new developments (i.e., sewage mounds, toilets, etc.) at the HSCs. Congress specifically directed that:

"Helicopter use for routine nonemergency purposes associated with visitor use is a questionable activity in national park system wilderness areas and should be eliminated within designated national park system wilderness." (House Committee Report No. 98-40, at p. 51)

In sum, all three of the HSCs discussed above (including the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge) should be subject to site-specific Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) as part of the Tuolumne River/Meadows planning process(es). This has not been done before, and is necessary to illuminate the scope and nature of the substantial environmental impacts of those facilities. Significant issues include, but are not limited to: (1) impaired scenery; (2) degraded trails; (3) pollution of surface and ground waters by sewage and wastewater produced at the HSCs; (4) pollution of surface waters by manure (bacteria, etc.) produced by pack animals that service the camps; (5) harm to wildlife that come in contact with sewage, kitchen/bath wastes, and human food sources; (6) harm to native songbirds due to proliferation of brown-headed cowbirds; etc.

Given the above, your two planning processes for the Tuolumne Meadows and River should include and adopt alternatives that will permanently remove all three of the HSCs discussed above, restore the sites, and propose that the potential wilderness additions at Glen Aulin and Vogelsang be designated as wilderness as intended by Congress in the California Wilderness Act (see that Act, Section 9; and House Committee Report No. 98-40).

TW5R-342-815
p. 40/20

Commercial Packstock Enterprises

The use of stock animals can be legitimate, appropriate, and even necessary for certain recreational and/or administrative purposes. We want to make clear at the beginning that we do **not** advocate or suggest the complete elimination of recreational or administrative stock use from Tuolumne Meadows or the Tuolumne River corridor. Our primary concern is that **the NPS must acknowledge and substantially reduce the many adverse impacts that are occurring due to the currently excessive and poorly controlled activities of commercial stock enterprises.**

We are aware that commercial packstock activities and impacts have increased **substantially** in recent years in both the Tuolumne River corridor and the Tuolumne Meadows area. Your planning process should begin by producing a complete disclosure of the increases in stock use, facilities, and impacts that have occurred over the past few decades. Then, your plans should significantly reduce/control commercial stock use to avoid the identified impacts, and incorporate definitive limits to prevent future harmful increases in commercial stock enterprises.

Quotas and Permits for Commercial Stock Outfitters

The Yosemite backcountry, including portions of the Tuolumne River Wild & Scenic River corridor, is so popular that quotas on its use have been implemented to prevent unacceptable impacts. We support the implementation of restrictions designed to protect park, wilderness, and wild & scenic river values. However, we remain concerned that commercial outfitters are allowed easy access when the general public is turned away due to use quotas.

A fundamental tenet of environmental science that must be acknowledged is that one horse (or mule) can produce ***at least*** as much impact as several people (see references below). Your management plans for the Tuolumne River/Meadows should state clearly that: (1) Commercial stock use of Yosemite National Park is a privilege—not a right, and (2) Commercial stock use shall not be given priority over private foot travel. **Wherever rationing (i.e., a quota system) is necessary, commercial stock use shall be reduced to maximize the number of people allowed to enjoy the area.**

In addition, all commercial outfitters (or their clients) should have to wait in line with the rest of the public to obtain wilderness reservations and permits. Commercial packstock enterprises should **never** be allowed to issue their own permits to conduct commercial operations in Yosemite National Park. (This is a ridiculous notion, and one that illustrates the unfair special treatment that commercial packers receive from land managers in some areas.)

Impacts of Recreational Stock Use

Parties traveling with stock animals have **much** greater impact on park, wilderness, and wild & scenic river resources and values than groups traveling on foot. The disproportionate amount of impact created by stock users must be much more limited and much better controlled.

Impacts to meadows, stream zones, wetlands, and lakeshores. Numerous studies have documented adverse impacts to meadows caused by stock animals used for recreation (Cole 1977, Merkle 1963, Nagy and Scotter 1974, Neuman 1990 & 1991a-b, Strand 1972, Strand 1979a-c, Sumner and Leonard 1947, Weaver and Dale 1978).

Trampling and grazing by livestock are known to increase soil compaction and to contribute to streambank erosion, sedimentation, widening and shallowing of channels, elevated stream temperatures, and physical destruction of vegetation (Behnke and Ralieggh 1978, Bohn and Buckhouse 1985, Kauffman and Krueger 1984, Kauffman et al. 1983, Siekert et al. 1985). Streambanks and lakeshores are particularly susceptible to trampling because of their high moisture content (Marlow and Pogacnik 1985). Unstable streambanks lead to accelerated erosion and elevated instream sediment loads (Duff 1979, Winegar 1977).

In sum, the impacts of recreational stock animals on meadows, streams, wetlands, and lakeshores are substantial, and need to be addressed in this planning process.

Impacts due to invasive weeds. The role of herbivores in dispersing weeds is now well established. Seeds can be spread from one location to another by attachment to the bodies of animals (epizoochory) or by being ingested and later excreted (endozoochory). (See, for example, Fenner 1985, Hammit and Cole 1987, Harmon and Kiem 1934, Heady 1954, Janzen 1982, Ridley 1930.) Many native herbivores have been shown to be effective seed dispersers. In addition, domestic stock animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses have all been shown to pass viable seeds through their intestinal tracts. (See, for example, Harmon and Kiem 1934, Harper 1977, Heady 1954, Janzen 1981 and 1982, McCully 1951, Piggin 1978, St John-Sweeting and Morris 1991, Welch 1985.) A detailed review of the scientific literature regarding the spread of weeds by domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, and horses) concluded:

“Recent research showing that livestock significantly increase invasions by nonindigenous plants in the western U.S. is persuasive. Similar results were found in all western states and for nearly every introduced species that has been studied. Although many of these studies would have benefited from both better replication and more recent research techniques, the pattern of evidence is overwhelming.” (Belsky and Gelbard 2000)

Numerous other reports document specifically that recreation livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) can and do spread exotic weeds. (See Benninger 1989, Benninger-Truax et al. 1992, Campbell and Gibson 2001, Hammit and Cole 1987, Harmon and Kiem 1934, Janzen 1981 and 1982, Landsberg et al. 2001, Quinn et al. 2006, Weaver and Adams 1996.) For example, several reports show that horses can excrete viable seeds for many days or even *weeks* after ingestion. (See, for example, Janzen 1981, and St John-Sweeting and Morris 1991.) Hammit and Cole (1987) state that horse manure is a major source for exotic seeds in wilderness recreation areas. Campbell and Gibson (2001) found that “seeds transported via horse dung can become established on trail systems,” and that weed seeds found in horse manure had become established along trails used by horses, but not along trails that weren’t used by horses. Weaver and Adams (1996) documented “substantial overlap in the weed species germinated from horse manure and the

weeds present along trails used by horses.” After reviewing all available scientific evidence, Landsberg et al. (2001) concluded that “concerns about dispersal of weeds by horses are legitimate.”

Invasive (i.e., weed) species have been specifically identified—at the national level—as one of the four greatest threats to our national forests.¹ The spread of invasive weeds has also been identified by the Regional Forester as an urgent issue that needs to be addressed in all Forest Service activities in California.² Current direction requires Forest Service units neighboring Yosemite to address these issues. For example, specific Standards and Guidelines applicable to neighboring Forest Service lands include³:

42. Encourage use of certified weed free hay and straw. Cooperate with other agencies and the public in developing a certification program for weed free hay and straw. Phase in the program as certified weed free hay and straw becomes available. **This standard and guideline applies to pack and saddle stock used by the public, livestock permittees, outfitter guide permittees, and local, State, and Federal agencies.**

43. Include weed prevention measures, as necessary, when amending or re-issuing permits **(including, but not limited to, livestock grazing, special uses, and pack stock operator permits).**

As outlined above, scientists have (in the past five to seven years) documented “overwhelming” evidence that domestic livestock (including horses, mules, etc.) can and do spread harmful weeds. This relatively new issue has never been adequately evaluated by the NPS at Yosemite. Therefore, your plans for the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows areas should address the issues of weeds and plant pathogens that may be spread by domestic stock animals.

This would include, at minimum, a range of reasonable alternatives for mitigating the potential for spread of weeds and plant pathogens, such as: (1) prohibiting all grazing by domestic stock (to minimize the free-roaming of stock animals and dispersion of seeds across the landscape via epizoochory and endozoochory); (2) requiring stock users to feed their animals weed-free forage for at least several days before entering the park (in order for stock animals to excrete viable weed seeds before entering Yosemite); and (3) cleaning stock coats and hooves before entering the park (to minimize the potential for epizoochory).

Given the above-described impacts, your management plans for the Tuolumne River/Meadows should include the following elements to mitigate these impacts:

- No grazing by recreation livestock should be permitted. Stock users should be required to carry feed for their animals, as is required in many other national parks. Certified weed-free feed should be required to minimize the spread of weeds. This is consistent with the

¹ See <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/four-threats/>

² See <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/noxiousweeds/>

³ See <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa/final-seis/rod/appendix-a/standards-guidelines/forest-wide.html>

biocentric approach described in Hendee and others (1990).

- Lower group size limits for stock parties should be adopted to mitigate the greater impact of stock on park resources and wild & scenic river values (see below for detailed discussion of group size limits).

Trail damage by stock animals. When compared to hikers, stock parties cause substantially greater impacts to trails (Dale and Weaver 1974, Frissell 1973, Kuss et al. 1986, Laing 1961, McQuaid-Cook 1978, Trottier and Scotter 1975, Weaver and Dale 1978, Weaver et al. 1979, Whitson 1974, Whittaker 1978, Wilson and Seney 1994).

Whitson (1974) provides a good discussion of how horse impact differs from hiker impact. Dale and Weaver (1974) observed that trails used by horses were deeper than trails used by hikers only. Trottier and Scotter (1975) documented deterioration of trails used by large horse parties. Weaver and Dale (1978) found that horses caused significantly greater trail damage than hikers. Whittaker (1978) concluded that horses significantly increased the potential for severe erosion by churning soil into dust or mud. Weaver et al. (1979) found that horses caused more trail wear than both hikers and motorcycles. After reviewing the available literature, Kuss et al. (1986) concluded that: "*Pack stock and horse travel is considerably more damaging to trails than hiking.*" Recent research (Wilson and Seney 1994) has confirmed these earlier studies, concluding that "*horses produced significantly larger quantities of sediment compared to hikers, off-road bicycles, and motorcycles.*"

To mitigate these impacts of stock use, your Tuolumne River/Meadows management plan(s) should include the following elements:

- Groups using stock should be limited to ten or fewer animals per party (as suggested by Cole 1989 & 1990).
- To allow reasonable access for stock users, and to reduce the impacts of stock use on trails, some trails should be designated and maintained to withstand stock travel. Proper maintenance of these trails (and reconstruction where necessary) may reduce (but not offset) the impacts of stock travel.
- A network of "foot travel only" trails must be designated so that hikers can enjoy a stock-free experience. These trails should be maintained for *foot travel only*. Funds saved by designating a network of "foot travel only" trails could be used for intensive maintenance of the stock trails (see Cole [1990], p. 461).

Water quality impacts of stock animals. Stock urine and manure contribute to eutrophication of streams and lakes (Stanley et al. 1979). Such impacts are a significant concern in the oligotrophic aquatic environments of Yosemite National Park. Livestock manure can also pollute water with harmful bacteria and other organisms such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, which are pathogenic to humans and other animals. (See, for example, Derlet and Carlson 2002 and 2006).

Some stock users continue to claim that the strains of *Giardia* and *Campylobacter* spread by domestic livestock are not infective to humans. This is wishful thinking. For example, their argument that humans cannot contract *Giardia* from stock animals hinges on a single inconclusive study conducted on domestic cats. The cross-transmission of enteric pathogens from stock animals is certainly not fully understood. However, there is an increasing body of evidence showing that pathogenic bacteria, protozoa such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, and other harmful pathogens can be spread from stock animals to humans (Bemrick 1968, Blaser et al. 1984, Buret et al. 1990, Capon et al. 1989, Davies and Hibler 1979, Derlet and Carlson 2002, Derlet and Carlson 2006, Faubert 1988, Isaac-Renton 1993, Kasprzak and Pawlowski 1989, Kirkpatrick and Skand 1985, Kirkpatrick 1989, LeChevallier et al. 1991, Manahan 1970, Manser and Dalziel 1985, Meyer 1988, Rosquist 1984, Saeed et al. 1993, Stranden et al. 1990, Suk 1983, Suk et al. 1986, Taylor et al. 1983, Upcroft and Upcroft 1994, Weniger et al. 1983, Xiao et al. 1993).

Specifically, Derlet and Carlson (2002) found pathogenic organisms in 15 of 81 manure samples collected from pack animals along the John Muir Trail. This documents that about twenty percent of the manure piles in the Sierra contain potentially pathogenic organisms (i.e., organisms that may cause disease in humans). Pack animal manure collected in the Tuolumne River/Meadows areas contained pathogenic bacteria as well as *Giardia*. Derlet and Carlson (2006) also found pathogenic bacteria in surface waters of the Tuolumne River watershed, and concluded that ***"pack animals are most likely the source of coliform [bacteria] pollution."***

Your environmental document must evaluate and disclose the effects of domestic animal wastes on the environment, and your management plan(s) should include the following elements to minimize the amount of animal waste that reaches water courses:

- Campsites for stock users should be designated away from water, on level and dry sites. Stock users should be required to camp at these designated sites, and to keep their animals tied at all times when not in use. This will require stock users to carry feed for their animals, as is required in many other national parks. Managers should carefully select and designate campsites and hitching sites for such use (see Cole [1990], pp. 457-462).
- Stock users should be required to use other management tools (i.e., use of portable electric fencing when watering stock, diapers on horses, etc.) to prevent pollution of surface waters by livestock manure. (See enclosed report "Horses in Diapers Help Mexico's Beach Cleanup." This report documents the feasibility of requiring diapers on horses to prevent the spread of diseases found in horse manure. Horse diapers are commercially available and have been accepted around the world.⁴

⁴ See <http://www.equisan.com.au/>

In addition, your environmental document must acknowledge not only the State's specific water quality standards, but also the state/federal anti-degradation requirements.⁵ Significantly, the waters of Yosemite National Park are high quality waters that are eligible for designation as Outstanding National Resource Waters. The federal and State anti-degradation requirements clearly apply. Specifically, the National Park Service must comply with the California State Water Board's Resolution No. 68-16, which requires that existing high quality waters be fully protected, unless very specific formal findings are made. In this case, neither the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California State Water Resources Control Board, nor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ever made the overriding findings necessary to allow degradation of water quality from the High Sierra Camps or the commercial stock enterprises that operate within Yosemite. Therefore, because the degradation and pollution of water resulting from both the High Sierra Camps and the commercial pack & saddle stock enterprises are *controllable*, that degradation and pollution must be fully prevented (unless the findings required by Res. 68-16 are formally made).

Impacts of brown-headed cowbirds. The operation of livestock pack stations, stables, and corrals (i.e., stock holding areas) is contributing to the demise of songbird populations in the Sierra Nevada by creating artificial habitat for the parasitic brown-headed cowbird. Cowbirds are obligate brood parasites that can significantly impact native passerine species. One study in the northern Sierra found that up to 78 percent of warbler nests are parasitized by cowbirds, resulting in significant decreases in the reproductive success of those species (Airola 1986). Elsewhere in the Sierra, individual female cowbirds have been reported to lay an average of 30 eggs per season (Fleischer et al. 1987). These high rates of parasitism and fecundity by cowbirds indicate that significant local impacts occur wherever cowbird populations are present. Habitat modifications, pack stations, corrals, and the presence of livestock throughout the Sierra may contribute significantly to regional declines in songbird populations (Graber 1996). A detailed literature review on cowbird impacts is enclosed and incorporated by reference. The impacts of stock holding facilities must be evaluated. An environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared that clearly discloses the environmental consequences of, and alternatives to, the continued operation of stock holding facilities in the planning areas.

Your management plan(s) should include the following elements to address the impacts of brown-headed cowbirds:

- Remove pack stations and stables from national park lands
- Reduce stock use to the minimum amount that is necessary

Aesthetic effects—adverse impacts on visitors' experience. We are also concerned about the many aesthetic impacts that result from stock use, such as the presence of annoying bells, dust, manure, urine, and flies, and the proliferation of unsightly hoofprints, drift fences, and

⁵ See the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Valley Region*, the State Water Resource Control Board's Resolution No. 68-16 ("Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California"), and 40 CFR § 131.12

overgrazed areas (see Absher 1979, Cole 1990, Stankey 1973, Watson et al. 1993). Most of the mitigation measures suggested above would have the added benefit of offsetting these "social" impacts. For instance, designating campsites for stock users would prevent sites used by hikers from being littered with stock manure. Tying stock and supplying feed will eliminate the need for bells and drift fences, prevent overgrazing and trampling of sensitive areas by stock, and reduce the pollution of surface waters by stock animal wastes (i.e., manure and urine). Designation of a network of "foot travel only" trails will provide hikers with a stock-free experience (i.e., no manure or dusty trails churned by stock, etc.). Adoption of group size limits based on science (see below, especially Cole 1989 & 1990, Watson et al. 1993) will reduce the impacts of large stock groups on the experience of hikers.

Group size limits. The NPS at Yosemite has in the past taken the irresponsible, unsupportable (and illegal) position that limits on group size will only be adjusted in conjunction with surrounding land units. This ignores the mandate of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to preserve wilderness and wild & scenic river values regardless of how other surrounding areas might be managed (or mismanaged). The fact that officials in the central and southern Sierra agreed on a consistent number in 1991 for maximum group sizes is no excuse to ignore the mandates of the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Park Service's Organic Act. This is especially true since the 15-year-old decision to allow 25 stock animals per group throughout the central/southern Sierra was adopted without following any NEPA process, and was implemented over the strong objections of hundreds of citizens and scores of conservation groups.

Further, the current group size limits have been shown to significantly and adversely affect park resources and values. In order to adequately protect Yosemite's environment and wild & scenic river values, the group size limits must be revised downward.

Number of persons per group (on trails). Dr. David Cole, an internationally recognized research scientist, has written: **"Limits on party size must be quite low (certainly no larger than 10) to be worthwhile"** (Cole 1989). We therefore propose that group size (on trails) be limited to 10 persons, as suggested by Dr. Cole.

Number of persons per group (off trail). Large groups traveling "cross-country" cause significantly greater impacts to resources and the experience of visitors (Cole 1989 & 1990, Stankey 1973). Dr. Cole (1989) has written: **"...small parties are critical to avoid the creation of new campsites and trails in little-used places...Once a party exceeds a certain number (perhaps four to six), special care must be taken in off-trail travel."** As suggested by Dr. Cole, group size should be limited to no more than four to six persons for all off-trail travel.

Number of stock animals per group. Dr. Cole has found that thresholds in group size that result in unacceptable impacts **"...would certainly differ between backpackers and parties with stock"** (Cole 1989). He adds that lower limits are necessary for stock parties, since they cause greater social *and* ecological impacts. Yosemite National Park must acknowledge the available research findings and conclusions, and regulate hikers and stock users according to their varying degrees of impact. The current group size regulations in effect for Yosemite's backcountry—which employ the same limits for hikers and stock users—were arbitrarily adopted for "ease of

management." This scheme does not comply with either the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or the Park Service's own Organic Act or wilderness management policies.

Recent research has shed light on the effects of large stock groups on the experience of wilderness users. Watson et al. (1993) documented that the average hiker in the central/southern Sierra is unacceptably affected by encountering stock groups with more than *nine* animals. Even stock users themselves are negatively affected by encounters with large groups: The average *stock user* in the central/southern Sierra is unacceptably affected by encountering groups with over *fifteen* animals (Watson et al. 1993, Table 29 & Table 10). Thus it is very clear that *twenty-five* animals in a group will degrade the character of the Tuolumne River corridor and the Tuolumne Meadows area for the majority of visitors. The Park Service must take action to prevent impairment of these areas by lowering the group size limit for stock parties.

We propose that groups be limited to no more than nine head of stock per party in the Tuolumne River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows area (*see* Cole 1989 & 1990, Watson et al. 1993), and that **all** off-trail travel by stock be prohibited.

Cross-country (off-trail) travel with stock. One very important element in Yosemite's existing Wilderness Management Plan (WMP) is the prohibition on cross-country travel by groups with stock animals or groups over 8 persons. The plan states:

"It is Service policy to deemphasize cross-country travel by limiting such travel in Yosemite Wilderness to groups of eight people or fewer. This plan recognizes actual and potential environmental deterioration from off-trail use."

and

"Stock must travel on designated trails or authorized stock routes and remain within one quarter mile of trails for watering, rest stops, and camping."

This important language must be retained (and strengthened as per our comments above). We recommend against any attempt to weaken this language or to open new areas to off-trail stock use.

Two harmful loopholes in the current WMP must be addressed during the planning process for Tuolumne River/Meadows. First, the exceptions in the WMP (Appendix G) for cross-country travel by stock animals must be removed. Secondly, nowhere does the plan list or define "designated" or "established" trails. (Appendix G lists "authorized" exceptions but not the "designated" or "established" trails on which large groups are permitted). Some older maps, still in use, show trails that are no longer maintained, and which are not suitable for travel with stock or by large groups. A list or map clearly defining what trails/routes are open to travel with stock and by large groups in the Tuolumne River and Meadows areas should be addressed in these planning processes. This will make clear, to both the public and agency personnel, which routes are open and closed to travel with stock and to large groups.

TWSP-342-EIS
P. 12 of 20

We request the opportunity to review the map or list described above before it is adopted. It should be included in the draft environmental impact statements (DEISs) for these planning processes.

Summary and Conclusions

As discussed above, the three High Sierra Camps and commercial packstock enterprises are having significant, adverse impacts on the environment in both Tuolumne Meadows and within the Tuolumne River Wild & Scenic River corridor. Your plans should fully address these impacts by eliminating the HSCs, and adopting effective limits and controls on commercial packstock enterprises.

Thank you for considering the above comments, and incorporating these issues into your plans for the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows. Please contact me at the letterhead address if you have any questions about this letter. Please also send full paper copies of all environmental and decision documents for our review.

Sincerely yours,



Peter Browning
High Sierra Hikers Association

Enclosures (3): (1) *Coliform Bacteria in Sierra Nevada Wilderness Lakes and Streams: What Is the Impact of Backpackers, Pack Animals, and Cattle?* by Derlet and Carlson (2006); (2) *The Brown-headed Cowbird in the Sierra Nevada: Impacts on Native Songbirds and Possible Mitigation Measures*, by B.C. Spence; and (3) *Horses in Diapers Help Mexico's Beach Cleanup*, by Reuters, August 2003.

Included in Reference Materials of
Administrative Record 9/19/06 BK

REFERENCES

Absher, J., and E. Absher. 1979. Sierra club wilderness outing participants and their effect on Sierra Nevada wilderness users. pp. 31-60, In: J.T. Stanley et al. (eds.) *A Report On the Wilderness Impact Study*. Sierra Club, Palo Alto, CA.

Airola, D.A. 1986. Brown-headed cowbird parasitism and habitat disturbance in the Sierra Nevada. *J Wildlife Manage* 50(4):571-575.

Ames, C.R. 1977. Wildlife conflicts in riparian management: Grazing. pp. 49-52. In: Johnson, R.R. and D.A. Jones. Importance, Preservation and Management of Riparian Habitats. USDA Forest Service, Gen. Tech. Rpt. RM-43. Rocky Mtn. Forest & Range Experiment Station, Ft. Collins, CO.

Armour, C. 1979. Livestock management approaches and the fisheries resource. p. 39. In: Cope, O.B. (ed). Proc. of the Forum on Grazing and Riparian/Stream Ecosystems. 94 pp. Trout Unlimited, Inc. Denver, CO.

Behnke, R.J. and R.F. Ralieg. 1978. Grazing and the riparian zone: Impact and management perspectives. pp. 184-189. In: Johnson, R.D. and J.F. McCormick. Strategies for Protection and Management of Floodplain Wetlands and other Riparian Ecosystems. 410 pp. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rpt. WO-12. Wash., D.C.

Belsky, A.J., and J.L. Gelbard. 2000. Livestock Grazing and Weed Invasions in the Arid West. A scientific report published by the Oregon Natural Desert Association. Bend, Oregon.

Bemrick, W.J. 1968. *Giardia* in North American horses. *Vet Med/SAC* 63:163-165.

Benninger, M.C. 1989. Trail corridors as conduits of movement for plant species in coniferous forests of Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. M.S. Thesis, Miami University.

Benninger-Truax, M.C., Vankat, J.L., and R.L. Schaefer. 1992. Trail corridors as habitat and conduits for movement of plant species in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, USA. *Landscape Ecology*. 6: 269-278.

Blaser, M.J., D.N. Taylor and R.A. Feldman. 1984. Epidemiology of *Campylobacter* infections. In: Butzler, J.P. (ed.) *Campylobacter Infection in Man and Animals*. pp. 143-161. CRC Press, Inc. Boca Raton, FL.

Bohn, C.C. and J.C. Buckhouse. 1985. Some responses of riparian soils to grazing management in northeastern Oregon. *J Range Manage* 38:378-381.

Buret, A., N. denHollander, P.M. Wallis, et al. 1990. Zoonotic potential of giardiasis in domestic ruminants. *J Inf Dis* 162:231-237.

Butzler, J.P. 1984. Introduction, In: Butzler, J.P. (ed.) *Campylobacter Infection in Man and Animals*. CRC Press, Inc. Boca Raton, FL.

Campbell, J.E., and D.J. Gibson. 2001. The effect of seeds of exotic species transported via horse dung on vegetation along trail corridors. *Plant Ecology*. 157: 23-35.

Capon, A.G., J.A. Upcroft, P.F.L. Boreham, L.E. Cottis; and P.G. Bundesen. 1989. Similarities of giardia antigens derived from human and animal sources. *International Journal for Parasitology* 19(1):91-98.

Cole, D.N. 1977. Man's impact on wilderness vegetation: an example from the Eagle Cap Wilderness, northeastern Oregon. Ph.D. diss. Univ. Oregon, Eugene. 307 p.

Cole, D.N. 1989. Low-impact recreational practices for wilderness and backcountry. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station, Gen. Tech. Rpt. INT-265. Ogden, UT.

725R-342-815
P. 14 of 20

Cole, D.N. 1990. Ecological impacts of wilderness recreation and their management. pp. 425-462, In: Hendee, J.C., et al. (eds.) *Wilderness Management*. Second edition. North American Press, Golden, CO.

Dale, D., and T. Weaver. 1974. Trampling effects on vegetation of the trail corridors of north Rocky Mountain forests. *J Appl Ecol* 11:767-772.

Davies, R.B. and C.P. Hibler. 1979. Animal reservoirs and cross-species transmission of *Giardia*. pp. 104-126. In: *Waterborne Transmission of Giardiasis*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA-600/9-79-001), Cincinnati, OH.

Davis, G.A. 1977. Management alternatives for the riparian habitat in the Southwest. pp. 59-67. In: Johnson, R.R. and D.A. Jones. Importance, Preservation and Management of Riparian Habitats, USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rpt. RM-43. 217 pp. Rocky Mtn. Forest & Range Experiment Sta., Fort Collins, CO.

Derlet, R.W., and J.R. Carlson. 2002. An Analysis of Human Pathogens Found in Horse/Mule Manure Along the John Muir Trail in Kings Canyon and Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine* 13:113-118.

Derlet, R.W., and J.R. Carlson. 2006. Coliform Bacteria in Sierra Nevada Wilderness Lakes and Streams: What Is the Impact of Backpackers, Pack Animals, and Cattle? *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine* 17:15-20.

Duff, D.A. 1979. Riparian habitat recovery on Big Creek, Rich County, UT. p. 91. In: Cope, O.B. (ed). Proc. of the Forum on Grazing and Riparian/Stream Ecosystems. 94 pp. Trout Unlimited, Inc. Denver, CO.

Faubert, G.M. 1988. Evidence that giardiasis is a zoonosis. *Parasitology Today* 4(3):66-68.

Fenner, M. 1985. Seed ecology. Chapman & Hall, London.

Fleischer, R.C., A.P. Smith and S.I. Rothstein. 1987. Temporal and age-related variation in the laying rate of the parasitic brown-headed cowbird in the eastern Sierra Nevada, California. *Can J Zool* 65:2724-2730.

Frissell, S.S. 1973. The impact of wilderness visitors on natural ecosystems. Unpubl. rep., USDA Forest Service, Forest Science Laboratory, Missoula, MT. 60 p.

Graber, D.M. 1996. Status of Terrestrial Vertebrates. pp. 709-734, In: Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project: Final report to Congress, vol. II, Assessments and scientific basis for management options. University of California, Davis, Centers for Water and Wildland Resources, 1996.

Hammit, W.E., and D.N. Cole. 1987. Wildland Recreation: Ecology and management. John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Harmon, G.W., and F.D. Kiem. 1934. The percentage and viability of weed seeds recovered in the feces of farm animals and their longevity when buried in manure. *J. Am. Soc. Agron.* 26: 762-767.

Harper, J.L. 1977. Population biology of plants. Academic Press, London.

Heady, H.F. 1954. Viable seed recovered from fecal pellets of sheep and deer. *Journal of Range Management.* 7: 259-261.

Hendee, J.C., G.H. Stankey, and R.C. Lucas. 1990. *Wilderness Management*. Second edition. International Wilderness Leadership Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. North American Press, Golden, CO.

Isaac-Renton, J.L., C. Cordeiro, C. Sarafis, and H. Shahriari. 1993. Characterization of giardia duodenalis isolates from a waterborne outbreak. *Journal of Infectious Diseases* 167:431-440.

Janzen, D.H. 1981. *Enterlobium cyclocarpun* seed passage rate and survival in horses, Costa Rican pleistocene seed dispersal agents. *Ecology.* 62: 593-601.

Janzen, D.H. 1982. Differential seed survival and passage rates in cows and horses. *Oikos.* 38: 150-156.

Kasprzak, W., and Z. Pawlowski. 1989. Zoonotic aspects of giardiasis: a review. *Vet Parasitol* 32:101-108.

Kauffman, J.B., W.C. Krueger, and M. Vaura. 1983. Impacts of cattle on streambanks in northeastern Oregon. *J Range Manage* 36:683-685.

Kauffman, J.B., and W.C. Krueger. 1984. Livestock impacts on riparian ecosystems and streamside management implications. *J Range Manage* 37:430-438.

Kirkpatrick, C.E. 1989. Giardiasis in large animals. *Compend Contin Educ Pract Vet* 11:80-84.

Kirkpatrick, C.E., and D.L. Skand. 1985. Giardiasis in a horse. *JAVMA* 187:163-164.

Knudson, T. 1991. Roads, cattle damage Sierra: Logging, grazing cause soil erosion, watershed problems. *Oakland Tribune.* 15 December 1991.

Kuss, F.R., A.R. Graefe, and L. Loomis. 1986. Plant and soil responses to wilderness recreation: a synthesis of previous research. pp. 129-137, In: Lucas, R.C. (compiler) *Proceedings—National Wilderness Research Conference: Current Research*. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station, Ogden UT. General Technical Report INT-212.

Laing, C.C. 1961. A report on the effect of visitors on the natural landscape in the vicinity of Lake Solitude, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. Unpubl. rep. USDI National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park. 62 p.

Landsberg, J., B. Logan, and D. Shorthouse. 2001. Horse riding in urban conservation areas: Reviewing scientific evidence to guide management. *Ecological Management & Restoration*. 2(1): 36-46.

LeChevallier, M.W., W.D. Norton, and R.G. Lee. 1991. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 57:2610-2616.

Manahan, F.F. 1970. Diarrhoea in horses with particular reference to a chronic diarrhoea syndrome. *Aust Vet J* 46:231-234.

Manser, P.A., and R.W. Dalziel. 1985. A survey of *Campylobacter* in animals. *J Hyg (Camb)* 95:15-21.

Marlow, C.B., and T.M. Pogacnik. 1985. Time of grazing and cattle-induced damage to streambanks. pp. 279-284. In: Johnson, R.R., Riparian Ecosystems and their Management: Reconciling Conflicting Uses. First North American Riparian Conf. USDA Forest Service. Gen. Tech. Rpt. RM-120. 523 pp. Rocky Mtn. Forest & Range Exp. Sta., Fort Collins, CO.

McCully, W.G. 1951. Recovery and viability of Macartney rose seeds fed to cattle. *Journal of Range Management*. 4: 101-106.

McQuaid-Cook, J. 1978. Effects of hikers and horses on mountain trails. *J Envir Mgm* 6:209-212.

Meecham, W.R., and W.S. Platts. 1978. Livestock grazing and the aquatic environment. *J Soil & Water Conser* 33(6):274-278.

Merkle, J. 1963. Ecological studies of the Amphitheater and Surprise Lakes cirque in the Teton Mountains, Wyoming. Unpubl. rep., National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park, 25 p.

Meyer, E.A. 1988. Waterborne *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*. *Parasitology Today* 4(7):200-201.

Miller, T.C. East Bay water quality threat? *The Daily Californian*. 16 December 1991.

Mosconi, S.L., and R.L. Hutto. 1982. The effect of grazing on the land birds of a western Montana riparian habitat. pp. 221-233. In: Peek, J.M., and P.D. Dalke (eds). Wildlife-Livestock Relationships Symposium. Proc. 10. 614 pp. Univ. of Idaho. Forest, Wildlife and Range Exp. Sta., Moscow, ID.

Nagy, J.A.S., and G.W. Scotter. 1974. A quantitative assessment of the effects of human and horse trampling on natural areas. Waterton Lake National Park. Unpubl. rep., Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, Alberta. 145 p.

Neuman, M.J. 1990. Past and present conditions of backcountry meadows in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Second edition. Unpubl. rep., USDI National Park Service, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP's, Three Rivers, CA. 21 December 1990.

Neuman, M.J. 1991a. Accomplishments of the stock use and meadow monitoring program in 1990. Unpubl. rep., USDI National Park Service, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP's, Three Rivers, CA. 18 January 1991.

Neuman, M.J. 1991b. 1991 Accomplishments of the stock use and meadow monitoring program. Unpubl. rep., USDI National Park Service, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP's, Three Rivers, CA. 1 November 1991.

Piggin, C.M. 1978. Dispersal of *Echium plantagineum* L. by sheep. *Weed Res.* 18: 155-160.

Platts, W.S. 1979. Livestock grazing and riparian/stream ecosystems. pp. 39-45. In: Cope, O.B. (ed). *Proc. of the Forum on Grazing and Riparian/Stream Ecosystems.* 94 pp. Trout Unlimited, Inc. Denver, CO.

Platts, W.S. 1981. Effects of sheep grazing on a riparian-stream environment. USDA Forest Service Research Note INT-307. Intermountain Forest & Range Exp. Sta., Ogden, UT.

Platts, W.S., and F.J. Wagstaff. 1984. Fencing to control livestock grazing on riparian habitats along streams: Is it a viable alternative? *NAJMDP* 4:266-272.

Quinn, L., M. Kolipinski, and S. Ghosh. 2006. Horses as vectors for weed invasion in California's National Parks: The promise of weed-free feed. Presented at: 59th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science, March 14-16, 2006. Reno, NV.

Ridley, H.N. 1930. *Dispersal of Plants Throughout the World.* Reeve, Ashford, UK.

Rosquist, A. 1984. *Giardia* source investigation in Rattlesnake Creek, July 5 - October 31, 1983. Unpubl. memo. Lolo National Forest, Missoula, MT.

Rothstein, S.I., J. Verner, and E. Stevens. 1980. Range expansion and diurnal changes in dispersion of the brown-headed cowbird in the Sierra Nevada. *Auk* 97:253-267.

Rush, B.A., P.A. Chapman, and R.W. Ineson. 1987. *Lancet* 2:632-633.

Saeed, A.M., N.V. Harris, and R.F. DiGiacomo. 1993. The role of exposure to animals in the etiology of campylobacter jejuni/coli enteritis. *American J of Epidemiology* 137(1):108-114.

Siekert, R.E., Q.D. Skinner, M.A. Smith, J.L. Doad, and J.D. Rodgers. 1985. Channel response of an ephemeral stream in Wyoming to selected grazing treatments. pp. 276-278. In: Johnson, R.R. *Riparian Ecosystems and their Management: Reconciling Conflicting Uses.* First North American Riparian Conf. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rpt. RM-120. 523 pp. Rocky Mtn. Forest & Range Exp. Sta., Fort Collins, CO.

St. Jean, G., Y. Couture, P. Dubreuil, and J.L. Frechette. 1987. Diagnosis of *Giardia* infection in 14 calves. *JAVMA* 191(7):831-832.

St John-Sweeting, R.S., and K.A. Morris. 1991. Seed transmission through the digestive tract of the horse. In: Plant Invasions—The Incidence of Environmental Weeds in Australia. pp. 170–172. Kowari 2, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.

Stankey, G.H. 1973. Visitor perception of wilderness recreation carrying capacity. Res. Pap. INT-142. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Forest And Range Experiment Station, Ogden UT. 61 p.

Stanley, J.T., H.T. Harvey, and R.J. Hartesveldt (eds.). 1979. *A Report On the Wilderness Impact Study*. Sierra Club, Palo Alto, CA. pp. 17, 201-202.

Strand, S. 1972. An investigation of the relationship of pack stock to some aspects of meadow ecology for seven meadows in Kings Canyon National Park. M.A. thesis. Calif. State Univ., San Jose. 125 p.

Strand, S. 1979a. The impact of stock on wilderness meadows in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. pp. 77-87. In: Stanley, J.T. et al. (eds.), *A Report On the Wilderness Impact Study*. Sierra Club, Palo Alto, CA.

Strand, S. 1979b. Recovery of Sierran meadows after trampling by pack stock. pp. 88-93. In: Stanley, J.T. et al. (eds.), *A Report On the Wilderness Impact Study*. Sierra Club, Palo Alto, CA.

Strand, S. 1979c. Pack stock management in the high Sierra. pp. 209. In: Stanley, J.T. et al. (eds.), *A Report On the Wilderness Impact Study*. Sierra Club, Palo Alto, CA.

Stranden, A.M., J. Eckert, and P. Kohler. 1990. Electrophoretic characterization of giardia isolated from humans, cattle, sheep, and a dog in Switzerland. *J Parasitol* 76(5):660-668.

Suk, T.J. 1983. Investigation of animal hosts for *Giardia* spp. in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. USDI National Park Serv., Coop. Park Studies Unit, Institute of Ecology, Univ. CA at Davis. Tech. Rpt. No. 11.

Suk, T.J., J.L. Riggs, and B.C. Nelson. 1986. Water contamination with *Giardia* in backcountry areas. In: Proc. of the National Wilderness Research Conf. Gen. Tech. Rpt. INT-212. USDA Forest Service Intermountain Research Sta., Ogden, UT.

Sumner, L., and R.M. Leonard. 1947. Protecting mountain meadows. *Sierra Club Bulletin* 32(5):53-69.

Taylor, D.N., K.T. McDermott, J.R. Little, J.G. Wells, M.J. Blaser. 1983. *Campylobacter* enteritis from untreated water in the Rocky Mountains. *Ann Intern Med* 99:38-40.

Taylor, D.M. 1986. Effects of cattle grazing on passerine birds nesting in riparian habitat. *J Range Manage* 39:254-258.

Thomas, J.W., C. Maser, and J.E. Rodnick. 1979. Riparian zones in managed rangelands: their importance to wildlife. pp. 21-30. In: Cope, O.B. (ed). Proc. of the Forum on Grazing and Riparian/Stream Ecosystems. 94 pp. Trout Unlimited, Inc., Denver, CO.

Trottier, G.C., and G.W. Scotter. 1975. Backcountry management studies, the Egypt Block, Banff National Park. Unpubl. rep., Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, Alberta. 178 p.

Upcroft, J.A., and P. Upcroft. 1994. Two distinct varieties of giardia in a mixed infection from a single patient. *J Euk Microbiol* 41(3):189-194.

Verner, J. and L.V. Ritter. 1983. Current status of the brown-headed cowbird in the Sierra National Forest. *Auk* 100:355-368.

Watson, A., M.J. Niccolucci, and D.R. Williams. 1993. Hikers and recreational stock users: predicting and managing recreation conflicts in three wildernesses. Research Paper INT-468. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station. Ogden, UT.

Weaver, V., and R. Adams. 1996. Horses as vectors in the dispersal of weeds into native vegetation. Proceedings of the Eleventh Australian Weeds Conference. pp. 383-397.

Weaver, T., and D. Dale. 1978. Trampling effects of hikers, motorcycles and horses in meadows and forests. *J Appl Ecol* 15:451-457.

Weaver, T., D. Dale, and E. Hartley. 1979. The relationship of trail condition to use, vegetation, user, slope, season and time. pp. 94-100, In: Ittner, R., et al. (eds.), *Recreational Impact on Wildlands* conference proceedings, Oct. 27-29, 1978, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, R-6-001-1979.

Welch, D. 1985. Studies in the grazing of heather moorland in northeast Scotland; IV. Seed dispersal and plant establishment in dung. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 22: 461-472.

Weniger, B.G., et al. *Am J Public Health* 73:868-872.

Whitson, P.D. 1974. The impact of human use upon the Chisos Basin and adjacent lands. USDI National Park Service Science Monograph Series 4. Gov. Print. Office, Washington, D.C. 92 p.

Whittaker, P.L. 1978. Comparison of surface impact by hiking and horseback riding in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Manage. Rep. 24. USDI National Park Service, Southeast Region. 32 p.

Wilson, J.P., and J.P. Seney. 1994. Erosional impact of hikers, horses, motorcycles, and off-road bicycles on mountain trails in Montana. *Mountain Research and Development* 14(1):77-88.

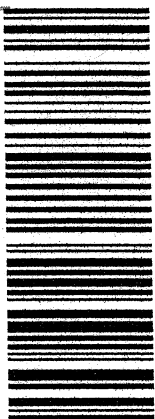
TWSR-342-EIS
p. 20 of 20

Winegar, H.H. 1977. Camp Creek channel fencing: plant, wildlife, and soil and water response. *Rangeman's Journal* 4:10-12.

Xiao, L., R.P. Herd, and D.M. Rings. 1993. *Vet Parasitol* 51:41-48.

erra Hikers Assoc.
O. Box 8920
re Tahoe, CA 96158

CERTIFIED MAIL



7001 0320 0002 7823 4991

RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED

TO:

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389



0000

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAFFITE, CA
SEP 19 06
AMOUNT
\$5.84
00060662-05

WILLIAM S. FISKE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

[REDACTED]
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

TWSP-343-815

SEP 07 2006

P. 103 4
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

September 6, 2006

Superintendent Michael J. Tollefson
Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Attention: Tuolumne Planning

re: Downstream from Mile 128.5

Dear Superintendent Tollefson:

I commend the NPS for undertaking this planning process and, in light of the many open houses, its determined effort to secure wide-ranging public input. I regret that the Service has deemed it necessary to piggy back, so to speak, the Tuolumne River Plan (Segments 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6) on the Tuolumne Meadows Plan (Segment 3). Of much greater concern, I profoundly regret that Congressional authorization has apparently forced the NPS into piecemeal river corridor planning.

Specifically excluded from any consideration is a key feature within the western one-half of the study area: Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Tuolumne's Lower Grand Canyon. Fortunately, Congress can impose no such restrictions on the public's input. While my own views encompass the river's entire downstream 17.5 miles or so within Yosemite's boundaries, I need not, and do not, address either San Francisco's management of the reservoir or O'Shaughnessy Dam's continued existence.

One can hike the entire Merced River watercourse from Post Peak Pass to Happy Isles and, from that point, hike/drive down to the boundary below Windy Point. Not so on the Tuolumne. From Parker Pass above the upper reaches of the Dana Fork watershed and Donohue Pass above the Lyell Fork's, trails (and the Tioga Road along much of the Dana Fork) extend downstream to about the Tuolumne's 128.5 mile mark (RM 128.5) below Pate Valley. At that point, the trail climbs out of the Grand Canyon to Harden Lake and then out of the main stem's watershed for most of its distance to Mather Ranger Station.

1. Proposed Poopenaut/Pate Valley Trail. I submit that the considerable (but arguably not insurmountable) engineering and construction challenges on certain portions of the route would pale in comparison to the visitor experiences the trail would offer.

Segment A. Mather R.S. to river corridor near Park's boundary (RM 111). Views of canyon and river pools.

Superintendent Michael J. Tollefson
Re: Tuolumne River - Downstream Planning
September 6, 2006
Page Two

Segment B. Boundary area to Canyon Ranch/Poopenaut Valley Trail terminus (approx. RM 114.7). Views from within Poopenaut Gorge and Poopenaut Valley.

Segment C. Trail junction to dam (approx. RM 117.5) using the City's maintenance roads where feasible. Views of Hetch Hetchy's granite gateway, Hetchy Adit's spoil pile, O'Shaughnessy Dam, discharge outlets and spillway.

Segment D. End of maintenance road at South wall quarry (approx. RM 117.8) to Kolana Rock saddle (approx. RM 119.4). Views of reservoir and North wall of lower valley including simultaneous full length views of Tueeulala and Wapama (which falls Prof. Whitney described in some detail in the 1868 Geological Survey of California and about which view Muir waxed poetic in "The Yosemite" (1912)). From the saddle, views of the Tiltill and Rancheria watersheds including Rancheria Falls and Gorge.

Segment E. Kolana Saddle to Smith Peak (approx. RM 121.7) generally via South wall ridgeline. Views of Falls Creek watershed, Hetch Hetchy Dome and lakes, Le Conte Point and Yosemite's high country.

Segment F. Smith Peak (elev. 7751') to Harden Lake (approx. RM 125.5) along ridgeline joining the Smith Meadow trail before reaching the lake. Views of Sierra foothills, San Joaquin Valley, Lower Grand Canyon, and cascades on seasonal North wall streams. Signal Peak (formerly "Devil Peak") (elev. 7079') located above the Merced's South Fork in the Sierra N.F. affords one a view, on extraordinarily clear days, over the Coast Range to breakers in the Pacific. Presumably the higher Smith Peak ridgeline offers similar views.

Segment G. Harden Lake to RM 128.5 on the river using existing trails. A remarkable view from a summit not far off the trail at the East end of the Morrison Creek bench (approx. RM 126.5) permits one to view the upper 6 miles or so of the reservoir and, turning upstream, a similar view into Pate Valley, the Upper Grand Canyon and toward the Sierra's crest. (On one occasion while stewing over NPS internal politics, the legendary Ranger/Naturalist Dr. Carl Sharsmith, accompanied by highly regarded fellow Ranger/Naturalist Will Neely, chose the spot for an overnight campsite.)

2. Proposed Hetch Hetchy Visitor Center. Yosemite's precious Second Fiddle possesses a diverse and, in many instances, unique richness. I am confident that most knowledgeable people would

Superintendent Michael J. Tollefson
Re: Tuolumne River - Downstream Planning
September 6, 2006
Page Three

wholeheartedly agree that a comprehensive visitor center is long, long overdue.

a. Site. Atop the dam's South buttress, which was flattened for the City's aggregate plant and which now serves as a heliport. The site would provide panoramic views including the lower reservoir, South wall, Kolana Rock, Hetch Hetchy Dome, lower Wampama Falls, Little El Capitan, Tueeulala Fall, North wall and downstream toward Poopenaut Valley, Gorge and Pass.

b. Design. This relatively little known national treasure deserves the attention of the best architectural minds available. The preferred means of assuring such interest would be a design competition.

c. Content. The wealth of relevant subject matter includes:

(1) Geology. For example, how the valley's last major glacier did not so much peter out as come to a grinding halt creating the gate to the valley (a dam builder's dream). How Falls Creek's greater volume has gradually carved Wampama into a cascade while Tueeulala remains a vertical drop waterfall.

(2) Cultural. The site of a Central Miwok village lies beneath the reservoir's waters. The oldest example of Native American basketry in the Yosemite region was discovered in the valley.

(3) Politics - The Initial Battles. The Sierra Club leading the fight to prevent the City from taking advantage of the Right of Way Act of 1901. The ongoing intra-club arguments of the preservationists led by President Muir and the dammers led by staunch club member and also the City's then chief engineer, Dr. Marsden Manson. Hetch Hetchy, probably as much as any area, can lay claim to being the birthplace of modern environmentalism.

(4) Politics - The Decisive Battle. The City achieved control of the valley following passage of the Raker Act in 1913. Even in defeat, perhaps one of the Sierra Club's finest hours.

(5) Engineering. A gravity flow water supply all the way to the City producing substantial hydroelectric power along its journey.

(6) Construction. A 68 mile railroad built from the Sierra foothills up to the dam site. An impressive dam.

Superintendent Michael J. Tollefson
Re: Tuolumne River - Downstream Planning
September 6, 2006
Page Four

Remarkable tunnels through the Sierra and the Coast Range. An appropriate construction icon still available for placement at the proposed center: Old No. 6. This Shay locomotive weighing just a shade under 100 tons pulled the City's cement trains up "long, steep Priest Hill" to Groveland and is probably the largest Shay ever to operate in the central Sierra. No. 6 presently sits pretty much unnoticed along a byway in El Portal, one of the two remaining pieces of rolling stock of the Yosemite Rail Museum.

(7) Human Toll. At least 89 lives lost during construction. (But for the quick action of an experienced fellow tunneler, my late father might have joined this memorial roll while working in the Foothill Tunnel.) Others would add Muir and Chief O'Shaugnessy to the roll. Personally, I would add Dr. Manson who evidently suffered a nervous breakdown during the early battles from which he apparently never fully recovered.

(8) Demographics. Hetch Hetchy's effect upon Bay Area's population growth and location, especially on the Peninsula and in the South Bay. Had San Francisco elected to develop the Mokelumne River watershed (subsequently utilized by Oakland and Berkeley) along with Lake Eleanor, thereby avoiding intrusion into Hetch Hetchy, what would be today's probable East Bay population patterns?

(9) Politics - The Continuing Battle. The City achieved control only after representing to Congress that Hetch Hetchy would be visitor friendly. Had the City followed that course rather than the municipal annexation views of Chief O'Shaugnessy, perhaps it would not now be facing such growing opposition to the dam's continued existence.

I make no apologies for the length of this commentary for two reasons: (1) Any decision regarding Planning Segments 4, 5 and 6 must keep in mind the key but presently excluded areas; (2) I am obliged to put my views on record, so to speak, because any subsequent scoping efforts for Hetch Hetchy and the Lower Grand Canyon may not commence until a time beyond my life expectancy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts.

Respectfully,



WILLIAM S. FISKE

WILLIAM S. FISKE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721



SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL J. TOLLEFSON
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 577
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CA 95389

ATTENTION: TUOLUMNE PLANNING

Carolyn A Lynch
[REDACTED]
Bishop CA 93514

9/06/06

RECEIVED
TWSR-348-215
SEP 07 2006
P. 103
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Planners,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Here are just a few thoughts.

WHAT I LOVE

Tuolumne welcomes, challenges and teaches EVERYONE.

WHAT I DO

Nature study, swim, just be there. Drive from the east side to meet friends and family from the west. Mostly I walk, in every direction. I don't need a trail (although I'm mindful that there are places NOT to walk). Tuolumne, more than any other place I know, invites unrestricted wandering.

WHAT I WANT PROTECTED

The access for everyone that we now enjoy! Everyone from parents with little kids to my 84 year old mom (2 weeks ago) can come, stay and really be here for a little while. Some may cringe, but John Muir was right: people need to climb these mountains and get their good tidings, or the mountains will have no voice. Most people won't fight to protect things they don't love, or love things they don't know.

Obviously, access should not come at the expense of the meadows themselves. Education: FREE interpretation, and lots of it, is extremely important!

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The existing facilities have served visitors well for a long time and I think the level of service they provide is just about right. Everything a visitor really needs is here, and not much more. If someone really thinks they need a motel room or fine dining it's only 20 minutes away.

I love the ephemeral quality of most of the visitor service facilities. When the canvas comes down for the winter you can see right through them. I feel that more "permanent" or substantial buildings would be undesirable. Most of the NPS facilities have that "parkitecture" charm that makes them seem to be an organic part of the scene, but some of the restrooms don't make it into this category.

I	I	L	U	A				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

Is there really a need to move facilities away from the road? People who see them are, after all, on a road. Are the impacts on new areas worth it? Roadside parking is an issue, but I question eliminating it if it means trashing previously unmolested terrain. I do think there's a safety issue at the Cathedral trailhead that needs to be addressed.

Employee housing is fine. I spent 6 happy summers in the concession housing and NPS housing is a lot nicer. Nobody HAS to work here.

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS AFTER THE 8/29 RIVER WALK:

SEWAGE SYSTEM

Though not a primary destination for most, the sewer ponds are much enjoyed by birdwatchers. Can public health concerns be met while allowing continued access?

I noticed new (composting?) toilets a couple years ago at Nevada Falls. How are they working out? Could this be an option at least for trailheads, Lumbert Dome, etc?

THE CAMPGROUND

Please leave the A loop alone. All of the really "bad" river sites have already been removed and river access is available to all. There are many miles of river access for day users who don't want to see a campground.

Most of the roads are as good as they need to be (speed is kept down). There should probably be some limited reconstruction (near the entrance, B loop?) to accommodate the giant RVs that couldn't have been anticipated when the campground was built.

Traffic flow through the campground might be improved if an additional exit point were established near the west end. A shuttle bus stop in that area might encourage more bus and less car travel by eliminating the long walk to the store.

TIOGA ROAD

The east-sider's perspective is a bit different from park management's or most visitors' but needs to be considered, because it exists! Some in our part of the state suspect that opening and closing dates for the pass are driven more by park budget concerns (very real concerns!) than by actual conditions on the road. The financial impacts of the opening and closing of the pass on the economies of Inyo and Mono counties are tremendous. I would assume that the west side counties experience a certain amount of revenue decrease when the pass is closed, as well, but nothing to compare to the virtual shutdown of the entire town of Lee Vining. Some park superintendents have reached out to the eastside gateway communities; others have ignored them. If the NPS is serious about being "partners" with these communities, there needs to be more cooperation with the state, counties and Caltrans to establish some kind of consistent policy.

It needs to be recognized that a significant amount of travel through the park is strictly about the shortest distance from point A (the east side) to point B (civilization) and has nothing to do with the park. These motorists may be less inclined to, for example, read park literature to learn the meaning of "red bear, dead bear" signs. I, a frequent visitor, had to have this explained to me just the other day. Sign proliferation is obviously undesirable but a couple of informative signs near park entrances or at hot spots might get a message across that "SPEED LIMIT 45 MPH" doesn't quite express.

CAPACITY

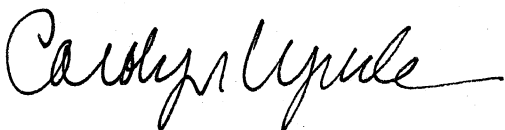
I feel that the number of overnight accommodations should not be further reduced. The lodge is full all summer and the campground fills early in the morning every day until school starts. The demand (and then some) is certainly there. The NPS has removed three whole campgrounds and hundreds of sites in the Tuolumne campground within my memory. ^{on the Tioga road.} A lot of Americans feel that they are no longer welcome in Yosemite, and I don't think this is a good thing (see "climb the mountains" above).

I DO NOT favor access over preservation. Where the two conflict, preservation should always prevail. Water quality, meadow trampling and many other issues are real and need to be addressed. I think they can be, and a good interpretive program and vigorous (while sensitive) law enforcement will go a long way. Others will have more constructive suggestions than I can offer right now.

The NPS has a great staff in Tuolumne and they need all the funding and support they can get.

Tuolumne has been a gathering place since long before the Sierra Club decided to build Parsons Lodge. Let's keep it that way.

Sincerely,

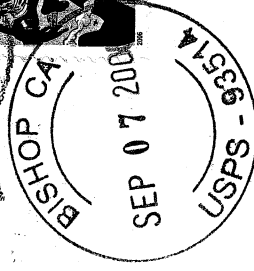


C. Lynch
[REDACTED]
Bishop CA 93514

BAKERSFIELD CA 933

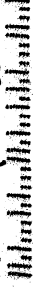
MOJAVE CA

08 SEP 2006 PM 2 T



NPS
PO Box 577
Yosemite NP CA 95389

attn: Tuolumne Meadows Plan



To: Yosemite National Park FAX 209-379-1294

30 August 2006

RECEIVED

7WSR-349-815

SEP 07 2006

Subj: Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan input

Dear Park Superintendent:

I'm writing to support the continuation of the group stock camp and the surrounding trails for stock use. Both camp and trails are an established historical use.

A few years ago, the stock camp was reduced in size about 75% to the current four sites. To my knowledge, no scoping was done or science presented to support this reduction. Please review the reasons/science/studies this was based on.

Since this is the height of the riding/packing season and many are not available for comment, please accept that I speak for many who would endorse my input if able. Cell phones allowed me to speak to several folks who are at the Tuolumne group stock camp at this time, so this is, in fact, a group consensus:

1. INFORM the stock user group of what science/study was used to drastically reduce the historically established carrying capacity and overnight use of this corridor.
2. PROTECT the historic group horse camp from further size reduction. The stock camp has existed there for decades, and therefore must be a sustainable use. It's in an ORV area for camps and trails, the users are trained and motivated to use "leave no trace" techniques, and many belong to Backcountry Horsemen who work closely with forest managers to help maintain trails and even camps of other user groups.
3. PROTECT the use of existing historic established stock trails. To my knowledge, there is no crowding or interference with other user groups, and I've not noticed or been apprised of any unacceptable level of environmental damage. Therefore, I believe it's been established that this corridor can sustain the previous level (before stock camp reduction) of stock use.
4. RESTORE or RELOCATE the stock group camps eliminated.
5. INSTALL several more bear-proof boxes at the existing four sites. The few there are not enough, inadvertantly undermining the attempt to keep bears out of camps.

In conclusion, the subject Plan should allow for the historically established stock camp use, protect existing use, restore or relocate the eliminated stock camps, and protect the stock use of historically established and used trails in this ORV corridor. Also, install additional bear boxes at the stock camp.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my letter/input.

Yours truly,

Evie Wilson

Evie Wilson (& Jack Wilson)

Mariposa CA 95338

T	2	L	U	AT				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

Evelyn Wilson
Mariposa, CA 95338

STOCKTON/STKN
CA 95241
01 SEP 2000 4PM



Superintendent, Yosemite Natl. Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite CA
95389



RECEIVED

TWSR-350-EL

SEP 07 2006

September 5, 2006

p. 182
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Tuolumne Planners,

I have a deep fondness for Tuolumne since I have been going there for over fifty years and presently serve there as a volunteer botanist during July and August.

The hope of "old timers" is that things "stay the same," but nothing stays the same, especially in California where the demands of population are so excessive. Any changes should always be governed by the Act of 1916: the fundamental purpose of the national parks is "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

I value Tuolumne Meadows as a center of trails in all directions and a place of enormous scenic beauty which all ages can enjoy as a source of revival of spirit and a reminder of a spectacular Sierra Nevada location that we are fortunate to share. If all the commercial "services" were to be removed tomorrow, I would not mourn their passing. People can learn to live without a store, a grill, or a gas station in Tuolumne.

I hope the Tuolumne Meadows planners will consider the suggestions listed below. The last is the most significant.

1. NEVER open the Tuolumne area in the winter. Those undisturbed months give the place a rest and confine the problems within a manageable season.
2. Continue to provide housing in Tuolumne Meadows for all workers, including law enforcement, concession, naturalists, maintenance people, and any others. A commute up or down existing highways would be dangerous, expensive, and anti-environmental.
3. Keep the tent cabins as living quarters for the naturalist staff as a form of housing compatible with the lives of those who are there to interpret the wilderness.
4. Provide cabins for law enforcement whose high-intensity jobs might be made less stressful by having conventional housing. These structures should be attractive, appropriate to the setting, and if possible hidden from public view.
5. Resist the temptation to put all buildings together into a mega-site with a mega-parking lot. Keep the structures separate so that Tuolumne Meadows remains a wide spot on the road rather than a vast tourist mecca. Any new or revised structures should be beautiful.
6. Eliminate the present gas station. Do not sell gas in Tuolumne.
7. Re-design the campground to provide a more spacious, less hectic atmosphere. Limit the size of motor homes that can use the TM campground. A motor home as big as a boxcar trailing a Hummer does not belong in TM.
8. Modernize the sewage treatment plant as needed. Figure out the top overnight capacity, and attempt to estimate the day visitors, and base the size of the sewage treatment plant on those figures.

9. Build raised trails in meadows so that 2-8 "lanes" are not established when early-season runoff floods trails.
10. Be as strict as possible with issuing permits for mules and horses. They do significant trail damage which it takes the trail crew hours of labor to repair.
11. Large tour buses that stop at Olmsted Point, Lake Tenaya, or other places should be required to turn off their motors to maintain peaceful surroundings instead of creating noise and stink.
12. Strive to educate people so that that they stay on trails, respect the flora and fauna, and think about their impact.
13. Keep the High Sierra camps, being sure that they meet all sewage and stock regulations.
14. The Olmsted Point-Tioga Pass shuttle is excellent. Encourage or require people to use them. In fact, as developed in my final point, why not require all people with lodge and campground reservations to park ONCE and use the shuttle thereafter until they leave.
15. This is the last and biggest (whopper) suggestion: get rid of Problem # One, the automobile. Here's how it might be done: Only those with lodge, campground, or backpacking reservations can drive in. Those people park and thereafter use only the shuttle. Those driving over the Sierra could not stop in the Tuolumne area for more than a few minutes and should be charged a huge toll so that those using the Tioga Road solely to cross the Sierra might choose another route. Eliminate ALL roadside parking in the TM area, especially the mess At Cathedral Lakes, across from the Visitors' Center, and near Lembert Dome. Put the cars in a new lot hidden from the road, and make ALL the day people ride the shuttle from there. A place will have to be sacrificed for the new parking lot. I recommend the old horse meadow at the junction of the Tioga Road and the Lower Gaylor Lake trailhead. The great majority of hikers enter the Gaylor Basin from Tioga Pass, and that meadow is not even known to most people. Establish an agreed-upon number of parking spaces, line them clearly, and give \$50 tickets to anyone parking illegally. If the lot is full, tough luck. Do NOT build any more lots after this one. The word will get around that TM can be FULL. At that point, for believe me you will never be able to accommodate the automobile completely, you may have to go on a day-use permit system. I will be the first to comply.

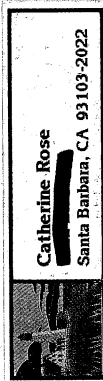
Well, there it is. Thanks for listening. Try to protect Tuolumne; I shall always defer to its protection rather than my own preference or convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine M. Rose

Catherine M. Rose

[REDACTED]
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
[REDACTED]



Catherine Rose
Santa Barbara, CA 93103-2022

BAKERSFIELD CA 933

MOJAVE CA

06 SEP 2006 PM 1 T



Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
TUOLUMNE PLANNING
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

95349+0577



TWSR-351-215
P. 1 of 3

Law Offices of

PORTER SCOTT WEIBERG & DELEHANT

A Professional Corporation

RECEIVED

September 5, 2006

SEP 07 2006

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Re: Tuolumne River Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing this letter in response to a request for "scoping comments" regarding the "Tuolumne Wild and Scenic Comprehensive Management Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Concept Plan..."

My grandparents, my parents, myself, and my children have visited and stayed in Tuolumne Meadows each summer for over seventy (70) years. My parents, myself, my brother, my sister, and all of our children have stayed for one (1) week every summer for the past twenty (20) years at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. We have used or experienced almost all of the facilities in Tuolumne Meadows every year.

My parents are now in their seventies. I also have a child who is mentally retarded and has physical disabilities which limit his ability to hike. My son, Nick is now eighteen years old. Each year our family has always brought small children to Tuolumne Meadows so that they can experience the extraordinary beauty and grandeur of Tuolumne Meadows and the surrounding mountains.

One of the extraordinary advantages of the current infrastructure at Tuolumne Meadows and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is that the facilities do not exclude ordinary citizens, the elderly, and the disabled while still attempting to minimize their impact on the environment. Tent cabins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge with adjacent shower and bathroom facilities and eating facilities allow ordinary citizens including the disabled and the elderly to enjoy the beauty of Tuolumne Meadows. To eliminate those facilities, or reduce the number, or size of those facilities would relegate Tuolumne Meadows to a place where only the physically elite could enjoy the Meadows. To me, that would be in direct violation of the mission of the National Park.

I think most people would agree that to build a hotel or additional permanent structures would

T	I	L	U	T				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

00452684.WPD

[Redacted] Sacramento, CA 95865 • [Redacted] Sacramento, CA 95825

- John W. Delehant
- *Edwin T. Weiberg
- **A. Irving Scott
- Russell G. Porter
- Anthony S. Warburg
- Ned P. Telford
- Terence J. Cassidy
- Tom H. Bailey
- Carl J. Calnero
- Russ J. Wunderli
- Nancy J. Sheehan
- Norman V. Prior
- Timothy M. Blaine
- Stephen E. Horan
- Carl L. Fessenden
- Michael J. Baytosh
- David A. Melton
- Jennifer Duggan
- Michael W. Port
- Jonathan A. Corr
- Andre M. Chernay
- Bart E. Hightower
- Kimberly L. Cordano
- Katie Bellotti Porter
- John R. Whitefleet
- George A. Acero
- Lindsay A. Goulding
- Stephen Robertson
- Molly M. Ryan
- Kristina M. Hall
- Chris Egan
- Justin N. Telford
- Kyra Clark
- Martin N. Jensen
- Laura J. Marabito
- Nathan W. Austin
- Chad S. Tapp
- Becki Graham
- Reuben L. Nocos
- Daniel J. Foster
- Stephen T. Casker
- Carlos A. Osegueda, Jr.
- Colleen M. Culhane

*retired 2001
** of counsel

September 5, 2006
Page 2

be politically and environmentally imprudent, and frankly unnecessary. The tent cabins which currently exist are taken down after Labor Day each year and they are not significantly intrusive on the environment.

With regard to infrastructure, some facilities need to be improved. The shower and restroom facilities at Tuolumne Meadows need to be upgraded. New technologies exists which would allow for the improvement of facilities while reducing the impact on the environment. The use of solar technology and bathroom facilities like those that exist Voglsan High Sierra Camp could reduce the environmental impact in Tuolumne Meadows while improving infrastructure.

There is also a significant amount of congestion in the afternoon near the store and grill. At that same time, a significant amount of asphalt remains unused at the gas station. It may be appropriate to combine the two (2) facilities. In this way, there could be more parking available while not adding any asphalt in that area.

Each year while we are at the High Sierra Camps, the more able bodied members of our group hike to the High Sierra Camps at Glen Aulin, May Lake, Voglsang, and Sunrise. Those High Sierra Camps have become a significant part of our lives. Four (4) generations of my family have hiked to the High Sierra Camps. The High Sierra Camps provide an opportunity for the "average citizen" to enjoy the back country of Yosemite. Without the High Sierra Camps, only the elite could enjoy the back country. The disabled and the elderly are also able to travel to the High Sierra Camps by mule. While mule technology has not improved, I believe that the environmental impact on the land is minimal. I think it is extremely important to allow people with all levels of abilities and disabilities to enjoy Tuolumne Meadows to the fullest. The way that the High Sierra Camps are currently configured allows almost everyone to do that in some manner or another.

Every year we visit Parsons Lodge and Soda Springs. Parsons Lodge is a historic landmark that helps tell the story of Tuolumne Meadows from John Muir to the present. We certainly hope and expect that Parsons Lodge will remain as long as Tuolumne Meadows exists.

My initial instinct is to tell you "don't change a thing." Upon further reflection, I believe the exact same services and facilities can be offered to the public and improved to enhance the experience of visiting Tuolumne Meadows, and improve the environment at the same time. New technologies can be used to improve sewer facilities, electricity supply, shower facilities, and other infrastructure.

Please don't allow Tuolumne Meadows to become a "wilderness area" where the general public,



TWSR-351-815
P-383

September 5, 2006
Page 3

disabled, and the elderly are excluded from enjoying this natural treasure.

Sincerely,


Timothy M. Blaine


Carmichael, CA 95608


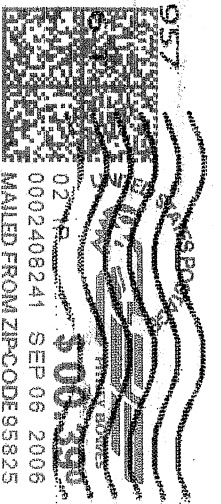
TMB:cj

Law offices of
PORTER SCOTT WEIBERG & DELEHANT
A Professional Corporation

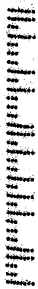
Sacramento, CA 95865

SACRAMENTO CA 957

06 SEP 2006 PM



Superintendent
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389



Public Comment for Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan

Name: Yenyen Chan

Date: September 7, 2006

Address: [REDACTED] Yosemite, CA 95389

RECEIVED

TWSR-352-813

SEP 07 2006

P. 103

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Comments:

The Tuolumne River is an incredibly beautiful, vibrant, free flowing river! I have visited, rested, and hiked along many stretches of both the Dana and Lyell forks and down past the cascades and waterfalls below Glen Aulin. There are places where the river is quiet and calm, and places where it flows over the smoothed granite rocks in a tumultuous downpour. And all along the river banks, wildflowers such as lupines, columbines, shooting stars and wild swamp onions, color the banks and spread across the meadows. Wallace Stegner's words about another river, so closely reflect how I feel standing or sitting by the Tuolumne. He wrote, "By such a river it is impossible to believe that one will ever be tired or old. Every sense applauds it. Taste it, feel its chill on the teeth: it is purity absolute. Watch its racing current, its steady renewal of force: it is transient and eternal."

The river and Tuolumne Meadows are incredible gifts to all of us from around the world to see and experience. It is a life force for all the people who have passed through here for thousands of years, and also for all the plants and wildlife that depend on the river, meadow and forest ecosystems. No price can be put to suddenly seeing a coyote in the open meadow attempting to outsmart his prey; smelling the fragrance of wallflowers in brilliant bloom; watching the sun set upon Lembert Dome; and deeply breathing in the cold mountain air.

The river is also notable geologically for its role in shaping this area's incredible landscape, whether as spring flood, summer flow, or during glacial periods as a river of ice. The glacially smoothed domes are just a few of the many features that one sees in Tuolumne Meadows that are awe-inspiring! It is so important that we continue to protect this watershed and its free flowing nature from the headwaters and out beyond the borders of this park.

In addition to many summer visits to Tuolumne Meadows, I feel extremely fortunate to be in my third summer living and working in Tuolumne Meadows as an Interpretive Ranger in Tuolumne Meadows. I first came to Tuolumne Meadows in 1993 as an Intern-Ranger. The place and the people who work here captured my heart my first summer, and in the years since, I have met so many people who have been visiting this place for many decades, some as far back as the 1930s and 1940s, including Ranger Carl Sharsmith, who I was able to get to know one year before he passed away. Thus, this

E	I	L	T	A				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

place is not only naturally significant but culturally significant too for the generations of families visiting this place and the thousands of years of trade and meeting by Native Americans in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

One particular quality that I feel makes this place so special is that it is closed to most travelers 7-8 months of the year, except for skiers making a trans-Sierra ski trip. And so this region of the park is wilderness for a large portion of the year. Spring, summer and fall come so quickly in the short span of four or five months of summer when the Tioga Road is open. Please do not make the Tioga Road a year-round highway, nor allow commercial trucking through this area. It is wonderful that this is not the case today. Tuolumne Meadows has the feeling of being a wilderness outpost of the park, and not as heavily visited an area as other parts of Yosemite. People can slow down and remember the essentials of living, breathing, relaxing. And the variety of trails with varying topography, offers so many different opportunities to challenge oneself or to just enjoy the day sitting along the Tuolumne River.

The sunsets are breathtaking and the dark night sky reminds me how our planet and all of us who live on this planet are part of a greater universe.

Tuolumne Meadows is also the largest sub-alpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada with the last two remaining glaciers in Yosemite at or near the Tuolumne River's headwaters: Lyell and McClure Glaciers.

Regarding the Tuolumne Meadows Plan, I do not believe that consolidating all visitor services into one central location would be wise. The current dispersed facilities have some disadvantages, mainly inconvenience and potentially increasing car commuting between locations, however, I believe there are several benefits. One benefit is that most development is unnoticeable from many different vantage points, including from the top of Lembert and Pothole domes. The development footprint is not concentrated in one area and thus not impeding natural flows of snowmelt and groundwater movement into the meadows. The only distinctive man-made feature from several viewpoints in Tuolumne Meadows is the Tioga Road. Work on providing culverts, more porous road bed material, or drainage channels under the Tioga Road to promote more natural drainage patterns and prevent a dry edge from expanding out towards the meadows. Also, consider constructing a raised board walk for sections or the entire section of the trail from the Tioga road to Soda Springs and Parson's Lodge.

The current Visitor Center is located in an old CCC dining mess hall. The building has a lot of historical character. A wood-burning stove is lighted almost every morning, giving the place a very warm cozy inviting feeling.

Housing: Keep rangers and concession employee housing in Tuolumne. It cuts down on commuting, gas money, time, and gives employees a perspective of living in the area that also translates to knowing the place and being able to share and relate this place better to visitors.

Sustainable eco-friendly housing: Work with architects and eco-designers to consider the environmental conditions of living in Tuolumne Meadows. Freezing cold nights, warm days, short season housing for 4-6 months of the year. I feel that a mixture of tent cabins and hard-sided cabins should be kept. The hard-sided cabins that have more insulation should be provided for employees who are working in Tuolumne Meadows for the longest part of the season where the beginning and end of season have the more extreme freezing cold night temperatures. For example, law enforcement rangers who arrive before or as the road opens and who stay until the road finally shuts down; any other employees who have a need for longer periods in Tuolumne; and any special cases where an employee needs warmer insulated housing. Most seasonal employees would have a lower impact on the land in tent cabins. The very nature of the housing of Ranger camp of which I am familiar with is historical and provides a tight community of summer residents from diverse age groups, backgrounds and allows for semi-privacy living conditions with two-person cabins. I am not a proponent for large dormitory style housing.

In addition to the many people who have been coming back to Tuolumne Meadows for generations, I meet many new people and young families who are also starting to make this place a tradition to visit and camp. The place is loved by generations of people for a reason. Keep the rustic near wilderness feel of the place as much as possible. Though I do not doubt that some changes will bring improvements for this place, I feel that Tuolumne Meadows and the River feel timeless and that any changes should be reviewed and carefully contemplated. Thank you for considering these thoughts while developing plans for Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River.

RECEIVED

Corvallis, Or. 97330

Sept. 1, 2006

TWSR-353-815

SEP 07 2006

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent

Yosemite National Park

Attn: Tuolumne Planning

Re: Public Comments for Tuolumne River and Meadows Planning Process.

1) What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Meadows?

The pristine setting, meadow surrounded by magnificent mountain peaks. The Tuolumne River so clear and pristine. The Tuolumne canyon with its cascades is a rare jewel. We love the close proximity of hundreds of wonderful trails to exotic alpine destinations. We appreciate the opportunity to camp there and pass the days far from the busy world, to day dream in the meadow and walk among the pines and wildlife. We love the natural undeveloped feeling of the area while still being able to stay and obtain necessities.

2) What do you do while you're there?

We camp at the campground, we hike into the surrounding lakes and alpine areas with wildflowers, especially the Dana hanging meadows. We love to hike the hundreds of trails to all the high sierra destinations. We love to hike down the Tuolumne river canyon past all the cascades. It is a pleasure to leave our vehicle and take the shuttle bus, so we do not have to drive and add our vehicle to the congestion.

3) What would you like to see protected?

The River of course must be maintained in an absolutely pristine condition. The meadows needs to be protected from excessive trampling, while still allowing limited access so people can marvel at the beauty. These are conflicting objectives given that we would prefer some services. Sewage and water is probably the most difficult issue to resolve while maintaining the river in pristine condition. Also we'd like to see the campground be available for overnight camping so people can spend several days in the area without driving in and out daily.

4) What kind of services or facilities would you like to see offered, improved, or removed?

A) the campground should by all means remain- restrooms need improvement -

I	I	L	U	X				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

this is probably one of the biggest challenges in the area, as water use and sewage from 300 + campsites is difficult to dispose of while maintaining the pristine condition of the river, and meadows.

B) Basic grocery store should remain- the current store provides adequate supplies - it does not need to be enlarged. The current temporary design of the store seems to be adequate. We do not believe a permanent building is necessary.

C) The grill can be removed without a great inconvenience to visitors- however if it does not cause any significant detrimental effects to the environment it could remain as a small service adjacent to the store as at present.

4) Personally we do not see a great need for the gas station. I presume its location may present some potential environmental threat so removal would be fine. Gas is available in Leevining and at Crane flat and visitors can tank up at these locations and do quite well at Tuolumne meadows.

5) We believe the High Sierra camp at T. Meadows serves an important segment of the population who may not otherwise be inclined to stay in the campground. The camp can be "Right Sized" to conform to the highest environmental standards necessary to maintain the pristine condition of the river. The camp location is situated in an area that does not interfere with the meadows and appears to be located in the right site.

6) Park service and concessionaire housing. It makes sense to provide seasonal housing for staff of the NPS and concessionaire somewhere in close proximity to their work. It would not be wise to move these folks out of the area completely. They would have to drive to work from Leevining and add to the already crowded roads using large amounts of fuel and adding pollutants to the air. It appears to us that the current location of housing is adequate as it is not easily seen and doesn't appear to interfere with the visual integrity of the meadow area.

7) I believe the visitor center, The wilderness center, and the Parsons lodge area should remain where they are.

8) Traffic, parking and shuttle service. Every effort should be made to limit parking by individual vehicles all along the highway. Adequate parking lots in strategically located areas needs to be provided and then the shuttle services expanded so people travel about by bus rather than individual car. The shuttle service at Zion NP is an ideal means of moving visitors while preserving the park.

TW5R-353-815
p. 2 of 2

However T. Meadows is not configured the same as Zion. Perhaps parking lots at the Wilderness center, Lumbert Dome, Visitor centers, and Teniya lake as well as a lot along the area where rock climbers access climbs just east of Teniya lake should be "right sized" and then all parking along the road disallowed. The area is so compact it is quite easy to leave a car at our campsite and hike many places we wish to go in that vicinity. The shuttle bus is then necessary to go to more distant locations, Tiogo Pass, Pothole dome, Teniya Lake etc. I'd suggest the buses circulate at about a 20 minue interval. At the current 30 minute interval we waited as long as 45 minutes for a bus. More frequent intervals would match with the limitation on roadside parking allow quick access to all trail heads.

Hopefully these comments are helpful. We are very interested in the planning process so please keep us updated by email on the progresss of the plan. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on one of the worlds truely wonderful places.

Sincerely,

Ron, Carlien Williams

Ron and Carlien Williams




Ronald Williams

Corvallis, OR 97330-2337

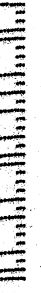
SALEM OR 973

05 SEP 2006 PM 2 L

BREAST CANCER



Superintendent
Yosemite Natl. Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389



Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

TWSP-354-EIS

SEP 07 2006

P. 101

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name:

Hinkle

Date of Comment:

8/20/06

Address:

[Redacted Address]

City Park St

Comments

Showers @ Campground

T	I	C	I	P	M				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED
TWSR-355-815
SEP 07 2006
P. 1031
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: Tim Dec

Date of Comment: 8/2/06

Address: [REDACTED] Sheffield Ct.

Comments

I very much like your show.

T	I	C	T	PM					
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

TWSP-356-815
SEP 07 2006

P. 181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: TIFFANY SHEWELL

Date of Comment: AUG 24, 2006

Address: [REDACTED], SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84108

Comments

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS + RIVER SHOULD BE PRESERVED AS WILD AND CLOSE TO HOW NATURE INTENDED IT, AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE DO NOT BUILD HOTELS, TOILETS, PARKING LOTS ETC. UNLESS FOR SOME REASON IT WOULD HELP EASE THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SO MANY PEOPLE TRAVELLING THROUGH.

SUGGESTIONS:

- 1) I HAVE SEEN BOARDWALKS (BUILT OF RECYCLED / SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS) PROVIDE PATHS OVER FRAGILE ALPINE MEADOWS (WE HAVE ONE AT SOLITUDE NORDIC SKI AREA). BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON, UT. PEOPLE DO NOT GET "OFF" THE BOARDWALK AND MAKE "OTHER" TRAILS THROUGH THE MEADOW. THE FRAGILE MEADOW AT TUOLUMNE NEEDS MORE RESTRICTIONS ON HUMAN TRAFFIC.
- 2) LESS PARKING = more people taking the bus and/or walking. Tuolumne does not need more space for cars!!
- 3) BICYCLE LANES = INSTEAD OF "SHOULDERS" ON THE ROAD - GETS PEOPLE OUTSIDE AS WELL, APPRECIATING TUOLUMNE ENVIRONMENT.

I	I	C	I	P	N				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OD	TS	

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

TWSR-357-ELS

SEP 07 2006

P. 181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: DAVID STEWELL

Date of Comment: 8/20/06

Address: [REDACTED], SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84108

Comments

I have been coming here for about 10 years. It is most special because it is so close to a natural state. It is incredible that a place with such beauty, calm, peace & history is also so simple. Throughout the 'west' so many places that are wonderful are overdeveloped & exploited & become places to avoid. By trying & expanding too much they become different & lose the charms they were most special.

PLEASE by maintain this place with as LITTLE CHANGE & development as possible. Myself & friends from all over the world are in awe of it, just as it is. !

healy David

I	I	C	I	P	M				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED
TWSR-358-215
SEP 07 2006
P. 181
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: AN MICHIELS

Date of Comment: 08/27/06

Address: [REDACTED] WASHINGTON DC 20009

Comments

T	I	C	H	P	M				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

I enjoyed Yosemite very much because it is one of the most beautiful places in the world that needs to be conserved...

some suggestions for high sierra camps & lodges:

- degradable (biodeg.) soap in suspensions of shower facilities

- encourage use of biodeg. soap at camp ground

suggestions for hiking & climbing:

- better marking system for trails f.e. Mc Hoffman

& Mc Dana so hikers can find the trail easier and

actually stay on the trail without destroying nature

- "back country" permit (or something similar) for

climbers with signing an agreement of respecting nature, not putting extra bolts, etc...

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED
TWSR-359-EIS
SEP 07 2006
P. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes **September 7 2006**. Written comments may be mailed to: **Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning)**. Written comments may also be faxed to: **209/379-1294**. Electronic comments may be emailed to: **Yose_Planning@nps.gov** (in the subject line type: **Tuolumne Planning**). Comments can also be submitted online by going to **parkplanning.nps.gov/yose**. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at **www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp**.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses.

Name: SUZANNE R. HOWELL-GREASON
Comment: YOSEMITE ASEN VOLUNTEER

Date of
JULY, 2006

Address: [REDACTED]
SEATTLE, WA 98115

Comments

- ① TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN: INSTALL SUFFICIENT CULVERTS
UNDER HWY 120 TO RESTORE MEADOW CONDITIONS.
- ② MINIMIZE CONCESSIONS

I	I	C	U	A				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS



Mr. Rick Gleason

Seattle, WA 98115

SEATTLE WA 981

2006 PM 8 T



SUPERINTENDENT
YOSEMITE NATIONAL
PARK -

P.O. BOX 577

YOSEMITE, CA 95389

ATTN: TOOLMAN

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

W SR-360-ELS

SEP 07 2006

P.1 082

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

I	L	C	I	P	M				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	JA	IP	OR	8	12

Name: Sarita Lief

Date of Comment: 08/23/06

Address: [REDACTED] Springfield, OR 97477

P.S. - Please don't smooth out campground road - it keeps drivers slow + safe.

Comments

I have been coming to Tuolumne Meadows for 32 years. My son started at 4 months & is now 23. In that time the man-made changes that I have observed have been few. The most appreciated are the bear boxes. And although the reservation system is a little restricting, it is necessary & I can live with it, as long as the 1st come 1st serve component remains. Only once was I able to get a reservation. It is impossible for a full time working person who can't make personal phone calls or use a computer to access the reservation system. But I've always been able to get a site at Tuolumne Meadows, even if not the first night. Thank you for keeping the campground available to regular working folk.

The development of this plan comes at a time filled with opportunities. More & more people are taking a new view of our species' impact on this planet and most are becoming directly impacted by the oil situation, global warming, the spectre of limited vs. limitless resources. I am quite sure you are all aware of this so I most strongly urge you to take a radical approach to your work on this plan.

(over)

Please consider, before anything else, revisiting the basic premises upon which the national park policy(ies) rests. Put aside the laundry lists of "to do's", to build or not build, accessibility etc. for a while, and ask the basic questions. Questions like: What is the gift of Yosemite-Tuolumne-our wild preserved places? What can we learn from it? What is the current relationship of humans to it? What kind of relationship do we want to foster for the future? What are the relationships to the various forces, challenges faced here to those that await us when we return to our homes?

For me, these questions point to the need of a radical paradigm shift. When John Muir convinced T. Roosevelt to set aside Yosemite it was to prevent at least one beautiful pristine spot from being wrecked. They also lived in the time that still viewed the earth as a limitless resource, there for the taking. Yosemite was set aside as one of the many tiny spots for people to escape for a short time, be refreshed & renewed and then return to making a mess of the rest of our planet. Ranger Margaret T. mentioned that our consideration should end at the boundary of the park. I totally agree. Yosemite (& all such places) should become a showcase, a spokesperson for our planet.

And so more questions: How can the choices the park plan make point to the choices we all must make in our lives? How can they be based on the developing knowledge about sustainability, permaculture utilizing the work of people like Joanna Macy and Michael Lerner (Tikkun Community) (Tikkun Olam is the Hebrew word for healing + transformation of the world.) How can every man-made structure in the park utilize the latest cutting edge designs in renewable, sustainable technology? (I'm also thinking of the valley) solar power, thermodynamic heating, composting toilets, bioswales, living roofs, campfires & cookfires using little or no wood etc.?

Costs! you say... it has to be cost effective! But what is the complete meaning of "cost"? We have to go beyond the initial economic costs. But, you say, we have constrained our budget has been slashed. Well, here is the opportunity to bring this problem forward - to be courageous - to insist on standing for the real needs instead of bowing down to "what is". This is part of the paradigm shift we all need to take.

Lastly, a few details. Kudos to the Tuolumne Store for simplifying its stock and providing eco-sensitive products, & cutting back on the souvenirs - a good role model. Thank you for the Poets festival - especially for the courageous choices of poets who bring real world issues and stimulate sharing & discussion with new people. And please, please don't make Tuolumne a "destination" like the Valley has become. Thank you so much for providing an opportunity for me and others to share our thoughts.

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

TWSP-361-ELS

SEP 07 2006

P. 181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes **September 7 2006**. Written comments may be mailed to: **Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning)**. Written comments may also be faxed to: **209/379-1294**. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses.

Name: SCOTT MUNROE

J	I	C	T	P	M				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

 Date of Aug 24 2006

Address:

PASADENA CA 91104

More "off road" parking to get cars off ~~should~~ road-side.

Comments

- * Seperate horse & hiker trails so that the trails don't keep getting wider as hikers try to get out of the sand the ^{hooves} ~~hooves~~ create.
- * Don't do things for the sake of "doing something".
- * Don't close A-loop, don't move workers to Lee Vining.
- * Internet reservation system.
- * Charge entrance fee by vehicle weight. Heavy vehicles do more damage. Extra charge for diesel's since they pollute more.
- * Very nice camp ground east of Tioga pass and frequent shuttle. Has to be attractive to lure people away from Tuolumne (probably won't work)
- * Why bother since global warming will destroy Yosemite before the next generation?

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

TWSR-362-813
SEP 07 2006
DAM
p. 187
Hetchy
Hetchy!

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: Katherine Mathers

Date of Comment: 8/25/06

Address: CA.

Comments

TML needs more showers! Build new one for lodge guests, keep old one for campers only, and house could be extended. Bathrooms in campground here need another sink and hook, and shelf would be inexpensive to add. Also solar lights would help at night, outside light.

I	I	C	T	P				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED
TWSR-363-EIS
SEP 07 2006
p. 102
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: W King

Date of Comment: 24/8/06

Address: Suffolk, England

Comments

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

We stayed at Crane Flat on Aug 22nd and were surprised that the Washroom facilities on B-loop were out of order. The porta-potty replacements were adequate, however there were no hand-washing sinks, meaning that campers had to use a faucet that had an advisory against bathing.

On 23rd at Tuolumne meadows, we found again that Washrooms were less than we expected. The toilets were unlit, taps did not remain on, and in one instance a WC was over-flowing. Also, the warning about the water being unsafe for consumption made the Washrooms near C-loop an unpleasant place to visit.

PTB

(continue comments on back of page)

We have been camping at state parks such as Castle Crags and Washburne, and they had far better facilities, including showers. Given Yosemite's status as a State park, we were to believe that standards would be higher.

I would also like to suggest posting weather warnings or advisories at the entrances to campsites. Having camped for the past two weeks, we have had little access to local media and therefore did not know that on August morning in Tuslunne can be in minus figures! Posting such information may benefit other campers in the future by advising them of cold nights, helping them to prepare.

I hope these comments help improvements to be made.

Yours,

W. King

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED 364

TWSP-303-EIS

SEP 07 2006

P. 181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments, however names may be made available.

Name: Leo Alcariz

Date of Comment: 8/26/06

Address: [REDACTED] 95307

Comments

Please consider and take in to concern
Pono and Lytle Fork, These watershed
need to be protected from development

RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----